

Complaint to OFCOM

**Regarding: Channel 4 - Dispatches – ‘The Truth About Traveller Crime’
From: the Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ)**

I am writing on behalf of the Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) to complain about the Channel 4 ‘Dispatches’ programme – ‘The Truth about Traveller Crime’ - which was broadcast on Thursday, 16 April 2020 at 9:00 pm

Gypsies, Roma and Travellers are perhaps the most disadvantaged group in the UK. They are also regularly victims of hate crime. It is often said that prejudice against GRT communities is the last acceptable form of racism in the UK. At this difficult time, they are more vulnerable than ever. It was an especially poor time to show such a programme. Moreover, the programme was not honest or balanced. From the beginning and throughout, it was putting forward an argument that Traveller communities are seedbeds of criminality. There were occasional hints of other perspectives, but these were not adequately explored.

This is not the first time Channel 4 has produced a programme that seriously stereotypes GRT Communities. *Big Fat Gypsy Weddings*, which aired between 2010 and 2015 was widely and seriously criticised for its racial stereotyping.

We hope you will seriously consider asking Channel 4 to apologise.

Yours sincerely

Richard Zipfel
Secretary to CARJ Trustees